

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Karelo-Finnish SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Observations of Optical Phenomena and Rocket Launcher Site in the Salla Area, Karelo-Finnish SSR	DATE DISTR.	15 May 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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- During the nights of 19 and 20 November and again on 8 and 12 December 1952, unusual optical phenomena in the form of lights were observed in the Kairala (N67-12, E27-26) and Alakurtti (N66-58, E30-19) sectors, as well as farther southward, somewhere in the Tuutijärvi vicinity. Although the Tuutijärvi and Alakurtti areas are some 50 kilometers apart, it was apparent that the occurrences were related, since the lights appeared simultaneously in both areas. As nearly as can be described, objects, changing in color from red to white to green, were observed high in the sky pursuing an elliptical course. On one of the evenings, six of these objects were observed in the air at the same time. On another occasion one of the objects was observed ascending into the air centered in several light beams directed vertically upward. Later the beams of light disappeared and the object, giving off light signals, remained in the air. The lights are apparently powerful inasmuch as they were visible from observation points estimated to be 25 to 30 kilometers distant.

- During the day on 6 December 1952

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an object, resembling a cigar with a nebular-like tail, flew at tremendous speed from a northeasterly direction and, since it ascended into the sky, it could not have been a shooting star.

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- On 20 February 1953, between 1920 and 1950 hours, an optical phenomenon was observed in the Salla area, in the directions "6-00 and 7-00" (sic). In the direction 6-00, a light object was observed rapidly ascending and descending and, at the same time, moving slowly southward. The object at times appeared round and, at other times, cigar-shaped; its light changed from bright red to green, and its southward progress during the half-hour observation period was not more than 100 degrees. Conclusive estimates as to the distance are impossible, as there is no way of judging how far the object was from the observation point

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. [] the above observations lend credence to a report that the Soviets have constructed a rocket launching site in the Kaitatunturi (N67-10, E31-15) area. The rocket base, reported as unique and modernly equipped, is approximately four to five kilometers square, is well guarded, and was completed sometime between October and November 1952. To facilitate construction work, a highway was constructed from Kantalkhti to Kaitatunturi, and from Kaitatunturi a new road has been built to the mountain itself; this latter road also connects with the railroad which is somewhat to the south. Shipment of material was begun as soon as the roads were completed, the material being transported by means of large tractors hauling trailers laden with large wooden crates. 25X1
5. On 19 January 1953, Soviet jets flew in eight-plane formations over the immediate border area, about 30 kilometers north of Salla, approximately opposite the Naruska area. More than one formation was in the air at the same time, since, when one disappeared from view, another quickly came into view.

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